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Unconfirmed report of lengthening of Lung T'ien airstrip

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☐ field interpretation of 8 July photography reports evidence of a 1,390 foot extension at each end of Lung T'ien airstrip. 1/ This extension, if confirmed, would provide a total runway length of about 9,600 feet. Evidence of a 650 foot gravel overrun area on the southwest end of the runway was earlier reported on the basis of 3 July photography, 2/ but the later report states that actual grading for runway extension is evident.

The three July photography, now available in Washington, does not indicate that actual runway extension was in progress at that date. Moreover, it is unlikely that in a matter of five days 2,100 feet of grading, as reported on the basis of 8 July photography, could have been accomplished. It seems most likely that an overrun area, as earlier reported, is being extended at each end of the airfield.

Furthermore a strip of 9,600 feet would be far longer than needed to accommodate aircraft known to be available to the Chinese Communists. MIG 15s, 17s, IL-28s and TU-4s can operate from fields of 7,000 feet or less. It is possible, however, that the Chinese would consider a field of this length desirable under sustained combat conditions.

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Sources:

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